

Faithful Saying: Be Careful To Maintain Good Works (Titus 3:1-9)

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Faithful Saying: Be Careful To Maintain Good Works  
(Titus 3:1-9) A minister was approached by a man who wanted to join the church. "But" the man said, "I have a very busy schedule. I can't be called on for any service such as committee work, teaching, or singing in the choir. I just won't be available for special projects or to help with setting up chairs or things like that. And, I'm afraid I'll never be able to go on visitation as my evenings are all tied up." The minister thought for a moment then replied, "I believe you're at the wrong church. The church you're looking for is three blocks down the street, on the right."

The man followed the preacher's directions and soon came to an abandoned, boarded up, closed church building. It was a dead church - gone out of business. The local church is to be a bee hive of activity not a ghost town of abandonment. Our faithful saying is that we are to be careful to maintain good works. Tit 3:8 is the theme verse for the whole book of Titus. Warren Wiersbe in his commentary on Titus, <sup>1</sup>entitled Chapter 3 "How I. The Prerequisite of Good Works - Let's make sure we don't get the cart before the horse. When I was in college, I learned some things about prerequisites. Before I take History 201 I had to

So before we even talk about our works we need

**A. A Revealing Conviction** vs 3. Dr Phil and Oprah would say he's got a low self esteem problem. No a true believer in Christ must first see who they really are. Man can not do this of his own mind this is the work of the Holy Spirit. Reprove the world of sin (Jn 16:8). He holds up the mirror and shows us who we really are: Sinful wicked unable to please

**B. A Wonderful Cleansing** - Once we see ourselves rightly then we may lift our eye and look upon him whom we have pierced. No greater manifestation of kindness and love can be found than that of the cross of Christ. vs 5 clearly states it makes it clear, not by... We did not earn it we deserve it but in mercy upon our repentance, he cleansed us, washed away our sin. <sup>(3)</sup>

**C. A Righteous Condition** - No instead of unrighteous, filthy, unholy and unclean now I stand righteous. God sees me in his son who is blameless and perfect. That is what justification is. Declared not guilty the debt paid in full. The requirements of the Law satisfied by Christ's death on the cross, so that we now live in a righteous condition.

**II. The Persistence of Good Works** - Now that we are in Christ, only then are our works acceptable in his sight. Not because of how we do them, but because we are in Christ



1) "How to have a healthy church." The mark of a healthy church is good works. The mark of a healthy believer is good works. This is an important statement that needs to be emphasized over and over again. Every Christian ought to maintain good works. Now when someone preaches or teaches on good works, they must be careful to place them in their proper perspective so as not to be misunderstood as to their place and importance in the Christian life. So I want us to notice some things about good works, notice first of all...

2) ...need to identify some things that need to be ironed out first. Notice first...

3) Washed away our sins! In our sinful condition we could not offer up pleasing works to God! Isaiah 64:6 But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags...

1) ...appoints us unto good works. Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

2) ...express the love of Christ, or are you thoughtfully intentionally seeking out ways to serve the Lord.

3) ...the more permanent and firmly entrenched they become in your life. 2 Corinthians 9:8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work: Colossians 1:10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

4) **1 Timothy 6:18** That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

**1 Timothy 5:10** Well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work.

**Acts 9:36** Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did.

5) Good works as ... *serving our unsaved neighbors, to be helpful in the community, and to have a reputation for assisting those in need. Baby-sitting to relieve a harassed young mother is just as much a spiritual work as passing out a Gospel tract. The best way a local church has to witness to the lost is through the sacrificial service of its members. Ray Comfort: Buy your unsaved neighbor some orange juice and say I say this at the store and thought you might need some.*

And it is only then that God appoints unto good.

**A. The Care of Good Works** - "Careful"  
To be careful is to put thought into. To be thoughtful of our works. To give it consideration. It is to live intentionally endeavoring to live out our Christianity by purposing in our heart to serve God by serving others. Are you just an opportunist? Oh here's a situation that I can express the love of

**B. The Consistency of Good Works** -  
The next word is maintain. It means to practice. Not just a spontaneous flurry of work. But a steady practice of Good works. I know what practice is. There is no telling how many times I shot basketball over and over. I had a t-shirt that said Practice makes permanent.

The more you practice good works the more permanent.  
**C. The Character of Good Works** - V59 Gives us the negative characteristics of Good work. Tells us what a good work is not. Good work is not you arguing with everyone at the office over the bible. It's not you striving over the minuscule jobs and titles of the Law. No good works can be seen in 1 Tim 6:18 5:10 (Eph 4:3)  
Warren Wiersbe describes these good works as

**III. The Perception of Good Works** - We are not to persist in good work just for the sake of having them. There is a reason. "These are good and profitable



unto men. There are specific reasons for

#### A. These Works are to Beautify Our Master

These things, works service are good. The word good is a word that means proper, beautiful, valuable. Our works bring glory to our Master the Lord

Jesus Christ. The heart cry of the newborn child of God is what can I do for a God that has done so much for me. Matt 5:16

The works of a child of God bring Glory to God and are of great value to God. Value meals at restaurants: Get more bang for buck. Are you of great value to God? What kind of return of his work?

#### B. These Works are to Benefit Mankind -

"Profitable" to mankind. to be of Benefit helpful, serviceable, advantageous. Our life of Christian service is to be of great benefit to the community around us.

If our church were to close its doors tomorrow, what impact if any would be felt by the community around us? The church of Jesus Christ is to be of benefit to the community around it, not a detriment. Most of the Great hospitals and Universities were founded by Christian influence for Christian <sup>advantage</sup>.

#### IV. Closing - Be careful to maintain good

works. I read the church needs to be a place full of wide awake workers and not a dormitory of sleepyheads. One poet wrote "work is love made visible"

- 1) Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your father which is in heaven.